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A radio talk by Grace E. Frysinger, Office of Cooperative Extension Work, delivered in the Land Grant College program, National Farm and Home Hour, over a network of 57 associate NBC stations, Wednesday, March 16, 1932.

Each time I visit a farm home, I marvel at the endless information a farm homemaker must have, and at the unerring judgment she must develop in order to be successful.

Home demonstration work aims to supply the information that farm women need. It makes no attempt to supply the judgment. The farm homemakers have to provide that -- and they do.

The United States Department of Agriculture and the State Colleges of Agriculture administer home demonstration work. The representative of this system in your county is the home demonstration agent.

In any one county, home demonstration work usually starts when some of the energetic homemakers read or hear about the work in another county. They write to the College of Agriculture asking for similar service. The State home demonstration leader comes to the county and explains how the work functions. Then the women organize community groups throughout the county, a home demonstration agent is appointed, and the work begins.

Today, home demonstration agents are working in 1,300 rural counties of the 48 States and in Hawaii and Alaska.

But no matter where she is, the home demonstration agent's job is to help the rural women of her county make life more satisfying to themselves and to their families. Usually, she serves 2,500 or more homemakers. Of course, she can't give individual help to so many women. So she meets with community groups, usually visiting each group once a month.

I hasten to say that the home demonstration agent does not teach the women of her county a program made out by the college or the United States Department of Agriculture. Far from it. She helps the women analyze local home and community conditions. Then they select the program which they think meets the needs.

After the women have selected the program, the home demonstration agent helps them put it into effect. Usually she presents lecture demonstrations before the community groups. Then the women, in their own homes, under normal living conditions, try out the recommended practices. That is where the term "home demonstration work" originated.

Of course, the home demonstration agent, besides doing this group teaching, is available for individual conference at her office. She answers many letters, helps the women plan exhibits, and arranges short courses and recreation camps. She works with all the people in the county.

What are the results of home demonstration work? I should say that the big result is better health, housing, clothing and diet of farm families. Then too, home demonstration work helps the farm business, because women in home demonstration clubs learn to make the most efficient use of available farm income,

and to add to the farm income by cooperative marketing activities. And not the least result of home demonstration work is the improved appearance of the farm house, its surroundings, and the whole rural community.

In times of economic difficulty and physical disaster, the home demonstration agent is the first line of defense and service to the farm family. Agents have served heroically in such emergencies as epidemic, hurricane, flood, and drought. In this current business depression agents are aiding farm women to help their husbands keep the farm business afloat. They teach economical production and preservation of food, clothing renovation, and buying of needed supplies, thus saving money. They also help women to make money as already mentioned.

Here are a few of the hundreds of stories recent reports from the agents tell:

The home demonstration agents of Arkansas and Kentucky were on the front line of drought relief. Many a destitute family received their first assistance through the work of these agents.

In the drought and grasshopper areas in North and South Dakota the home demonstration groups found what relief each family needed, obtained the supplies, and distributed them.

In some Minnesota counties the home demonstration groups, with the assistance of the agent, have taken the entire responsibility of providing for the food and clothing needs of farm families in distress, thus making all public funds available for town people.

In Ohio the home demonstration agents trained volunteer relief workers to teach food and clothing conservation to distressed industrial workers.

More farm women take part in home demonstration work each year. Last year over 600,000 of them were members of home demonstration groups served by 1,300 county home demonstration agents. It is not surprising that farm women each year make more use of the help of home demonstration agents. The story that Mrs. Harting has told us earlier in this program demonstrates why they do so.

Through the aid of the agents, rural homemakers have become partners with the county, State and Federal governments in a campaign for a better rural life. The women have shown initiative and executive ability. Home demonstration work is training them for leadership. With its assistance they are able to cope with difficulties or to take advantage of opportunities. Through home demonstration work farm women become more efficient as homemakers, grow in mental and social stature, and find greater satisfaction in rural life.